



Iowa Child Care Quality Rating System

Licensed Child Care Centers, Preschools, and School-Based Programs

(Effective 2-1-11)

Quality Levels 1 and 2

Level 1

- Full licensing OR a provisional license with no action to revoke or deny OR operates under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school
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Level 2

- Full licensing only with no action to revoke or deny OR the program operates under authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school
- If eligible, participation in federal food program (Child and Adult Care Food Program - CACFP)
- Each room has at all times at least one staff member present who has completed mandatory reporting of child abuse, universal precautions and infectious disease control, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and first aid
- Basic orientation for all staff prior to beginning work
- Director and staff perform self-assessments of each individual's skills and one of the center overall

Quality Levels 3-5

The following amount of points from the menu below are required to reach Levels 3-5:

At least one point must be earned from each category.

Level	Points required
3	17 - 26
4	27 - 33
5	Minimum of 34 points and minimum Environment Rating Scale (ERS) assessment score of 5.0 in each assessed room. The assessment must be completed by Iowa State University.

Professional Development Maximum points = 30	
<i>Credential - programs may earn a maximum of 5 points</i>	<i>Points</i>
Center director has one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid National Administrator Credential (NAC) Valid Aim4Excellence credential Valid license as a Pre-Kindergarten principal issued by the Board of Educational Examiners OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff has completed the Head Start Management Acceleration Program (MAP) 	5
<i>Education and experience – programs may earn a maximum of 25 points – Each staff member shall indicate the highest applicable education and experience qualification and the total points of all staff will be divided by the number of staff.</i>	<i>Points</i>
15 hours of annual approved training beyond regulatory requirements	2
30 hours of annual approved training beyond regulatory requirements and at least five years of experience working in a child care facility or a program operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school	4
At least 9 college credit hours in education specific to age group for whom care is provided	5
Iowa Board of Educational Examiners paraeducator certificate at Level 2, early childhood, plus two years of experience in early childhood education under the supervision of a licensed early childhood teacher	6
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential	6
Apprenticeship certificate	7
1 year diploma in early childhood education	8
An associate's degree in education specific to age group for whom care is provided	10
A bachelor's degree in education specific to age group for whom care is provided	20
A master's degree in education specific to age group for whom care is provided	25

Health and Safety Maximum points = 19	
	<i>Points</i>
Director, assistant director, or on-site supervisor completes 3 semester hour Health, Safety, and Nutrition class through community or 4-year college (must have been completed within the past 5 years)	5
Other approved health and safety training option (must have been completed within the past 2 years)	2
Development and implementation of an emergency preparedness plan	2
Development and implementation of enhanced health and safety policies	2
Completion of injury prevention checklist with child care nurse consultant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit completed – 1 point • Starting process of making recommended corrections –2 points • All corrections completed –3 points 	1-3
Completion of child record review with child care nurse consultant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit completed – 1 point • Development of a plan of action to secure health services for children –2 points 	1-2
Completion of health and safety assessment with child care nurse consultant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit completed – 1 point • Development of a plan of action to correct deficiencies - 2 points • All corrections completed - 3 points 	1-3

Environment Maximum points = 27	
Training and self-assessment - <i>programs may earn a maximum of 9 points</i>	<i>Points</i>
Center director or asst. director completes Iowa State University Extension Environment Rating Scale (ERS) training appropriate to the ages of children in care	2
After completing ERS training, the facility director or assistant director completes a self-assessment and score sheet for at least one third of the facility's classrooms, including at least one classroom in each age group served by the facility	2
After completing ERS training, the facility director or assistant director completes a child care center improvement plan for each room in which the self-assessment was completed	2
After completing Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) training, center director or assistant director completes IQPPS self-assessment and develops quality improvement plan	3
Enhanced Ratios - <i>programs may earn a maximum of 3 points</i>	<i>Points</i>
Meets NAEYC or NAA standards for group/class size appropriate to setting (only for programs not accredited by NAEYC or NAA)	3
Accreditation preparation - <i>programs may earn a maximum of 5 points</i>	<i>Points</i>
Accreditation self-assessment approved by NAEYC (only for programs not accredited by NAEYC)	5
Accreditation – <i>programs may earn a maximum of 18 points. Programs may receive points for one of the three options below:</i>	<i>Points</i>
Program is verified by IQPPS	5
Compliance with Head Start Program Performance Standards	6
Accreditation by NAEYC, Council on Accreditation (afterschool or 8 th edition standards), or NAA	18

Family & Community partnerships Maximum points = 8	
	<i>Points</i>
Program or director is a member of a professional organization specific to age group for whom care is provided	1
Orientation provided for new parents	1
Annual conferences are held with parents	1
At least one group parent meeting is held annually	1
Parent advisory board meets quarterly	2
Annual parent surveys are collected and results are used to inform program practices	2

Leadership/Administration Maximum points = 7	
	<i>Points</i>
All staff receive yearly written evaluation	2
Development and annual updating of an overall center improvement plan	1
All staff have completed professional development plans with the center's overall skill needs in mind	1
All staff who have direct contact with children complete the Iowa State University Extension New Staff Orientation (NSO) training within four months of starting employment	3